



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - February 26, 2003

- ***In the West***, beneficial rain and snow showers continue in the ***Four Corners region***, while showery weather is returning to the ***Pacific Northwest***. Despite recent and ongoing precipitation, most of the ***West*** faces another year of water-supply concerns due to the cumulative effects of a multi-year drought.
- ***On the Plains***, mild weather is beginning to overspread ***northern portions of the region***, but cold conditions persist farther south. A variable snow cover continues to provide insulation for winter wheat as far south as ***Oklahoma*** and ***northeastern Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather is maintaining stress on ***Midwestern*** livestock, but a substantial snow cover is protecting winter wheat from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, winter weather advisories and winter storm warnings, mostly for freezing rain, remain in effect from ***central and northeastern Texas into Kentucky and Tennessee***. In some areas, ice accumulations are causing travel and electrical disruptions. Meanwhile, snow is overspreading the ***Mid-Atlantic region***. In contrast, warm, dry weather prevails in ***Florida***.

Outlook: Widespread rain and snow will persist across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States*** into Friday, as a series of disturbances track northeastward from the ***Gulf of Mexico***. Meanwhile, a weakening Pacific storm system will bring periods of rain and mountain snow to the ***Southwest*** and parts of the ***central and southern Plains***. Elsewhere, cold, mostly dry weather will persist from the ***northern Plains to New England***, while unsettled weather will return to the ***Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 3-7 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States, northern and central parts of the Rockies and Plains***, and portions of the ***Southwest***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather is expected from the ***southern Plains to the southern Corn Belt*** and in the ***Pacific Northwest***. Below-normal temperatures will persist across much of the Nation, although warmer-than-normal conditions are likely in the ***Southeast***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)